

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging Applicant's claim for foreign priority and for acknowledging receipt of all certified copies of the priority documents.

Additionally, Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the documents cited in the Information Disclosure Statements, filed on October 5, 2000, April 2, 2001, and November 1, 2001.

Upon entry of the above amendment, claims 1-46 will have been amended, claim 23 will have been canceled, and claims 47-49 will have been newly added. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-22 and 24-49, which are currently pending, along with withdrawal of the outstanding rejections.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-9, 11-22, 27-29, and 31-46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by BARNETT et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,099). The Examiner also rejected claims 10 and 23-26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over BARNETT in view of VOYTICKY (U.S. Patent No. 6,438,751).

Applicant respectfully traverses each of the above rejections and submit that they are inappropriate with respect to the claims pending in the present application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of

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the outstanding rejections together with an indication of the allowability of all of the claims in the present application, in due course.

Regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by BARNETT, Applicant respectfully submits that BARNETT (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,099) does not properly qualify as a prior art reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Applicant notes that BARNETT issued as a patent on January 1, 2002. However, Applicant's application received a filing date of July 5, 2000 from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Since the issue date of BARNETT is not more than 1 year prior to the effective filing date of the Applicant's application, BARNETT does not qualify as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). For this reason alone, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection.

In light of the art applied in the rejection of the claims, Applicant respectfully submits the following merely as an illustrative example of an aspect of the present invention. According to the Applicant's invention, various kinds of information, such as, for example, restaurant information, are broadcasted from a broadcast station (e.g., an information providing apparatus 1) to a TV receiver (e.g., an information receiving device 2) through the "providing arrangement". If an individual (e.g., the information recipient) watching TV finds the information concerning one of the restaurants interesting, he/she presses a button registered to himself/herself on a remote controller of the TV. Next, identifying data associated with the individual is transmitted through the

“communications arrangement” from the TV (2) to the information management apparatus (3). The broadcast station transmits more detailed information regarding the various kinds of information to the information management apparatus (3). Accordingly, the information management apparatus is provided with identifying data associated with the individual together with more detailed information concerning the selected information received directly from the broadcast station (1). Thus, since all of the relevant information is stored in the information management apparatus, the individual may later retrieve, for example, detailed information (e.g., menu, pricing, or hours of operation) concerning the data (e.g., restaurant) that he/she previously selected, using the remote controller, from his/her cellphone (e.g., a communications terminal).

Applicant respectfully submits that one of the features of the present invention is to provide an information providing apparatus (e.g., Figure 1: element 1) that is separate from an information management apparatus (e.g., Figure 1: element 3). Such an arrangement is particularly useful and advantageous in allowing each apparatus to be controlled by a different entity. Thus, separating control of the information providing apparatus from the control of the information management apparatus provides increased flexibility. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the pending claims to clarify that the various kinds of information provided by the information providing apparatus and the data provided by the information management apparatus to emphasize the distinctions

between the present invention and the cited prior art in an attempt to expedite passage of the present application to issue.

Furthermore, as illustrated for example in Figure 1, Applicant also respectfully submits that the information providing apparatus sends data to both an information recipient and to an information managing apparatus. Accordingly, a “providing arrangement” (such as a broadcasting arrangement) for the various kinds of information is provided between the information providing apparatus and the information receiving device. Also, a “communication arrangement” for the transmission of identifying data is provided between the information receiving device and the information management apparatus. Further, a “sending arrangement” for the related data (i.e., more detailed information concerning one’s selection of the various kinds of information) is provided between the information providing apparatus and the information management apparatus. Thus, Applicant has amended the claims in order to clarify these different features in an attempt to advance the prosecution of this application. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Moreover, Applicant respectfully submits that the applied prior art is deficient for failing to teach each and every feature as recited in the claims. For example, the applied prior art fails to disclose, suggest, or even differentiate between a providing arrangement (through which various kinds of information are provided), a communications arrangement (through which identifying data is transmitted), and a sending arrangement

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(through which reference data added information or reference data or related data related to reference data is sent). As noted above, one of the features of the present invention is to provide different arrangements for the transmission of the different types of data for increased flexibility and control, especially since the information apparatus and the information management apparatus are separate and can thus be separately controlled.

In addition, regarding claims 1-2 and 6-9, for example, BARNETT does not disclose or suggest accessing by said information recipient, management information in said information management apparatus, as recited in the claims. As indicated by the Examiner, BARNETT merely discloses requesting a package of electronic coupons. However, BARNETT does not disclose or suggest at least accessing management information, as recited in the claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Furthermore, with regards to the rejection of claims 18-19, Applicant respectfully submits that BARNETT does not disclose or suggest, inter alia, transmitting to an information receiving device, through a providing arrangement, and sending to an information management apparatus, through a sending arrangement, as recited in the claims. Rather, BARNETT merely discloses a coupon distributor that downloads coupon packages to the online service provider. As BARNETT fails to disclose at least this feature in the claimed combination, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of claims 18 and 19.

Regarding claim 22, Applicant respectfully submits that BARNETT does not disclose or suggest at least an information reception device that receives reference data added information through a providing arrangement and a data sending device that sends identifying data through a communications arrangement as recited. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Applicant further submits that BARNETT does not anticipate claim 28. In particular, BARNETT fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, an identifying data reception device that receives identifying data through a communications arrangement and a retrieval device that retrieves identifying data through a sending arrangement as recited. As BARNETT lacks at least the features mentioned above, the rejection is inappropriate and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 31 is believed to be allowable as BARNETT fails to disclose or suggest at least an information transmission device that transmits various kind of information through a providing arrangement and a data sending device that sends identifying data through a communications arrangement as recited. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Further, regarding claims 32-34, Applicant notes that BARNETT fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, an information receiving device that receives said various kinds of information through a sending arrangement and an information management apparatus

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that receives identifying data through a communications arrangement, as recited in the claims. Thus, Applicant also requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 32-34.

With respect to claims 35-37, Applicant respectfully submits that BARNETT fails to disclose or suggest, inter alia, a television receiver or a set top box for receiving various kinds of information. BARNETT, on the other hand merely discloses a satellite receiver, but does not disclose or suggest a television receiver or a set top box, as recited in combination with the other features of the claims. Additionally, Applicant notes that BARNETT fails to disclose calling out information from said communications terminal on the basis of said particular code or a code related to the particular code, as further recited in the claims. As BARNETT fails to disclose or suggest each and every limitation recited in claims 35-37, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection based upon BARNETT is improper and should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 44-46 are believed to be allowable as BARNETT fails to teach each and every limitation as recited in the claims. More specifically, BARNETT fails to disclose at least an information providing apparatus that transmits various kinds of information through a providing arrangement and an information management apparatus that receives, through a communications arrangement, as recited.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of all of the claims is respectfully requested together with withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all of the claims.

Applicant also submits new claims 47-49 for the Examiner's consideration. New claims 47-48 are directed towards a data management method that comprises, inter alia, providing various kinds of information through a providing arrangement and transmitting identifying data through a communications arrangement. New claim 49 is directed towards a data management system that comprises, inter alia, an information receiving apparatus for selecting information from among various kinds of information in response to a selection made by a remote controller. Since the applied prior art does not disclose or suggest at least the above noted features in the claimed combinations, claims 47-49 are believed to be both allowable and in condition for allowance.

Thus, in view of the amendments and arguments herein, the Applicant submits that claims 1-22 and 24-49 are in condition for allowance. Furthermore, the Applicant asserts that the dependent claims are allowable on their own merit, as well as because they depend either directly or indirectly from an independent claim which Applicant has shown to be allowable.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims in the present application are clearly patentable over the references cited by the Examiner, either alone or in combination, and an indication to such effect is respectfully requested.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests an indication to that effect. Applicant has amended the claims to enhance clarity and argued their allowability. Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Official Action and allowance of the present application and all the recited claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

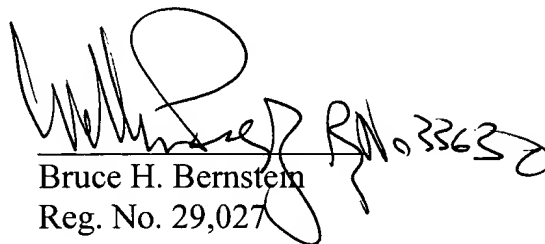
Should the Commissioner determine that an extension of time is required in order to render this response timely and/or complete, a formal request for an extension of time, under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), is herewith made in an amount equal to the time period required to render this response timely and/or complete. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any required extension of time fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

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Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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